

Energy, Environmental, and Food Economics

Graduate Program Orientation

August 23, 2019

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Grad Director, EFFE

Introductions (in 2 minutes or less!)

- Name
- Previous schooling, and where are you from?
- Interests; Why graduate school?
- One personal thing we don't know about you?

Department name: Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education

- Department structure – 3 “clusters”
 - Agricultural and Resource Economics
 - Rural Sociology
 - Agricultural and Extension Education
- Department Head: Laszlo Kulcsar
- Agricultural and Resource
Economics Cluster Rep: Jim Shortle
- Staff and responsibilities
 - Grad Coordinator: Michelle Barnyak (second floor)
 - Financial office: Melanie Barton (basement)
 - Business administrator: Jane Gardner (main office)



EEFE Program Nuts and Bolts

When in doubt, check the handbook!

MS Requirements – 30 credits

- EEFE 510 Econometrics I (3 credits)
- EEFE 511 Econometrics II (3 credits)
- EEFE 512 Applied Microeconomic Theory I (3 credits)
- EEFE 527 Quantitative Methods I or EME 501 Energy and Mineral Project Investment Evaluation (3 credits)
- EEFE/EME 529 Applied Welfare Economics (3 credits)

- 9 credits of field electives taught at the 500 level. These courses will be chosen in consultation with the student's academic adviser and cannot include readings or independent study courses (596s).
- 6 credits of thesis research

- Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) program

- Thesis and oral defense

PhD Requirements - 1

- 36 total credits
 - 21 credits of required core courses
 - 12 credits of field courses*
 - 3 credits of electives

* Some field courses will come “on line” as we fill faculty vacancies.

Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) program requirements

- Qualifying exam – end of Year 1
- Second-year paper – Year 2
- Comprehensive exam/proposal defense – typically, Year 3
- Dissertation and oral defense, typically Year 4 or 5

PhD Requirements - 2

Required courses

Micro

- ECON 502 Microeconomic Analysis* (3 credits)
- ECON 521 Advanced Microeconomic Theory or BA 513 Advanced Micro (3 credits)
- EEFE/EME 529 Applied Welfare Economics (3 credits)

Econometrics

- EEFE/EME 510 Econometrics I (3 credits)
- EEFE/EME 511 Econometrics II (3 credits)

Quantitative Methods

- EEFE 527 Quantitative Methods I or EME 501 Energy and Mineral Project Investment Evaluation (3 credits)
- EEFE 532 Applied Computational Economics (3 credits)

PhD Requirements - 3

Field courses and Electives – two fields are required

Energy Economics, Policy and Systems

- ENNEC 540 Economic Analysis of Energy Markets (3 credits)
- ENNEC 560 Mineral and Energy Finance I (3 credits)

Environment and Natural Resource Economics

- EEFE 519 Resource and Environmental Economics I (3 credits)
- EEFE 541 Resource and Environmental Economics II (3 credits)

Food Industrial Organization

- EEFE 535 Empirical Analysis in Food Marketing (3 credits)
- EEFE 536 Economics of Food Behavior and Health (3 credits)

Electives: A minimum of 3 credits at the 500 level, of which 3 credits must be selected from the following list:

- EEFE 531 Microeconometrics I (3 credits)
- EEFE 530 Microeconometrics II (3 credits)
- ENNEC 541 Economics of Energy and the Environment (3 credits)

EEFE Courses AY19-20

- Registration through LionPath (<http://lionpath.psu.edu>)
- Suggested AEREC courses for fall
 - Micro - EEFE 512 or ECON 502 (two versions)
 - Econometrics - EEFE 510
 - Quant. Methods - EEFE 527 or EME 501

Planning Course Schedule

- Spring offerings
 - Micro – **BA 513** (or ECON 521)
 - Econometrics – EEFE 511
 - Applied Welfare – EEFE/EME 529
- Other classes to check out: ECON!

Scholarship and Research Integrity Program (SARI)

- “All graduate students at Penn State must engage in a total of 5 (sixty-minute) hours of discipline-specific, discussion-based training during their graduate career.”
 - EEFE 590 (now in the second year) provides 3 hours
 - Need to do online tutorial Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR – Social and Behavioral Science) through CITI training (<http://citi.psu.edu>)
 - ORP educational offerings (such as Brownbag workshops) up to 2 hours
 - Record-keeping: students need to send certificates to Michelle

Advisors

- Assistantship supervisor is currently also your academic advisor
- However your assistantship supervisor is not necessarily permanent
- Advisor's role:
 - Provide advice about grad school
 - Opportunities to co-author papers, proposals
 - Guide thesis/dissertation
 - Support for positions, awards, etc.
 - Long-term career development

Choosing an Advisor

- Most important issue:
Students get to choose their MS or PhD advisors.
- A student asks; a faculty member says yes (or no).
- Look for someone....
 - With similar interests
 - Does not have to be complete overlap
 - Use committee to fill in
 - You get along with well and you can develop a respectful working relationship
 - Who is accessible
- Talk with faculty, other grad students
- Can change later. Changing can be awkward, but it happens all the time.



Funding

Sources, Options, and Expectations

Research Assistantships

- Assistantship essential to professional development
- Seek to match students with faculty and projects related to interests
 - Be flexible and open-minded
 - Communicate about interests and options, additional guidance needed
- Evaluation each year by both faculty and student
- Expectation is 20 hours per week on project. The timing of those 20 hours is negotiable.

Fellowships

- Do not require working as research assistant
- HOWEVER: strongly encourage you to volunteer with faculty member on research project
 - Encourage integration into program
 - Build relationship with faculty member
 - Develop research skills

More on Assistantships - 1

- Funding is always tight!
- Some of you are funded from College of Ag/Departmental funds/
- Others are funded from external grants.
- Encourage you to seek external funding for stipends (with the help of your advisor)
 - External funds (USDA, SARE, NSF, etc.)
- Teaching opportunities – 1 assistantship.
 - AG BM 101 – Micro-economic Principles
 - Other

More on Assistantships - 2

- MS: 4 semesters
- PhD: 8 semesters
(given sufficient progress is made)

- We encourage seeking external funds
- We encourage timely progression through program

Keys to Success in Grad School

- Get to know your colleagues!
- Do the work! Work together!
- Participate actively in discussions
- **Attend the program seminar – noon to 1 on Wednesdays (first one, Sept. 5)**
- Develop your research ideas and skills
- Learn to be a good writer

Travel funds

- AESE funds
 - MS: \$750
 - PhD: \$1000
- College of Ag Sciences Travel Funds
- Association (e.g, AAEA, NAREA) travel scholarships
- Procedures
 - Monitor your allocation!
 - Complete appropriate requests in advance of travel
 - Complete reimbursement forms in timely fashion
 - Keep receipts!!!
 - Know rules of funding source

Dual Title Program Contacts

- Demography: Stephen Matthews
(Sociology)
- Operations Research: Jose Ventura
(Industrial and Manufacturing
Engineering)

Other Opportunities & Resources

- Rural Sociology Graduate Association
- Graduate Certificate in Survey Methodology (through SSRI/ Survey Research Center)
- Graduate School Teaching Certificate (through Graduate School and Schreyer Institute)
- Graduate Writing Center
- Pattee and Paterno libraries
- PSU Counseling and Psychological Services
- National Graduate Student Crisis Line 1-877-GRAD-HLP (877-472-3457)

Dates and Events

- First day of classes: Monday, Aug 26
- College of Ag Orientation: Tuesday, Sept. 3, 1:30 to 3:00 in Room 118 ASI
- First Program Seminar, Wed., Sept. 5, at noon
- Grad Program Party and Potluck: Saturday, Sept. 14. 6:00 to 9:00pm, at Ted Jaenicke's house

Contacts

- **Michelle Barnyak**– Grad Coordinator
(mlf1@psu.edu -
- **Ted Jaenicke**– Director of Graduate Studies
(tjaenicke@psu.edu– 865-5282
 - Open door policy
- **EEFE website:**
<https://aese.psu.edu/graduateprograms/eefe>
 - **AESE Graduate Handbook**
 - Forms
 - Directory